



Fw: Emergency Provisions for Groundwater Use in Paso Robles and Surrounding Areas

Cytasha Campa to: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk
Clerk Recorder

08/05/2013 01:03 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/05/2013 01:03 PM -----

From: Daniella Magnano <dmagnano@gmail.com>
To: ccampa@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 08/05/2013 12:58 PM
Subject: Emergency Provisions for Groundwater Use in Paso Robles and Surrounding Areas

Dear Secretary,

Please add my comments below to the record. Thank you.

Dear Supervisor

I moved to the Ground Squirrel Hollow area just last year. I cannot afford to drill a deeper well if mine goes dry. I have neighbors already in the terrible position of having their water source dry up. I feel awful for them, and worried for my future of water sustainability in this area.

We know water levels in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin are rapidly declining. This jeopardizes the health and safety of those who depend on the groundwater here. I believe emergency measures are vital at this point.

I wholeheartedly support the basic emergency provisions of:

1. No new or expanded irrigated crops.
2. No conversion of dry farming or grazing land to irrigated crops.
3. No new development that requires a well.

Please implement these measures now to assuage some of the damage caused by the overdraft we are already in. This will also create some time to help the residents and businesses impacted by the declining water levels in the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin seek a fair way of sharing the groundwater that belongs to all of us.

Sincerely,
daniella magnano



Fw: August 6, 2013 BoS Hearing Item @27

Cytasha Campa to: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk
Clerk Recorder

08/05/2013 02:38 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/05/2013 02:38 PM -----

From: "Susan Schwarts" <susan@heavencanwait.us>
To: <fmecham@co.slo.ca.us>, <darnold@co.slo.ca.us>, <ahill@co.slo.ca.us>,
<bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>, <ccampa@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 08/05/2013 02:37 PM
Subject: August 6, 2013 BoS Hearing Item @27

The Public Trust. This is what each and every governmental official is bound to whether they are elected or appointed. It is the founding ethic of public service. It essentially means we, the people, endow you, the elected or appointed official with our trust to make good and right decisions anchored in solid information.

In today's world this Public Trust is even more important given the tidal wave of information that washes through our hand-held and desktop technologies, information that is often untrue, falsely reported or down right purposeful lies.

Many of your constituents in North County are seniors on fixed incomes. Many are unemployed or their paychecks barely cover the necessities. The cost of drilling a new well is beyond the reach of many. Those whose wells are only working in fits and spurts are hauling water that they can ill afford to pay for in addition to their other monthly expenses. In most cases the trucked water is not actually potable. There is an additional danger that they will not have water in their water storage tanks to protect their homes should a fire break out in areas which are "tinder box" dry due to the lack of rain over the last year. Those who are still fortunate to have water in their wells are seeing a decline in quality. Most of us do not own vineyards and yet because of them we are fearful of the day our showers won't turn on, or the toilets won't flush, or we can't wash our clothes and dishes or water our organic gardens we depend upon to eat healthy and to save on the high cost of groceries. There are many animals of many kinds that cannot go without water, whether a personal pet or animals (pigs, cows, etc) that are raised to be butchered; again so we can eat more healthy and save on the high cost at the store.

We are your constituents too....not just the vineyards. Most politicians at every level forget who voted for them too.....the little guy, the everyday people that relies on our public officials to do

Agenda Item Number: 27
Meeting Date: August 6, 2013
Presented By: Susan Schwarts
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 5, 2013

right by us and make sure we are safe too....even if we could not afford to donate to campaigns. We resent that we are forgotten; our children and our lives, obviously mean absolutely nothing to the vineyard owners or apparently our public officials who allow them to keep taking our water or I should say **what little is left of it**. You should all be ashamed of yourselves for allowing this whole situation to go on for as long as it has and put your constituents at risk of having no water. Ya didn't think it might not rain?

A North County Resident.



Fw: Agenda Item #27 Water Ordinance

Cytasha Campa to: BOS_Legislative Assistants, cr_board_clerk
Clerk Recorder

08/05/2013 02:43 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/05/2013 02:43 PM -----

From: Daniella Sapriel <info@hummingbirdhouse.org>
To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us,
BOARDOSUPS@CO.SLO.CA.US
Cc: ccampa@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 08/05/2013 02:43 PM
Subject: Agenda Item #27 Water Ordinance

Dear Ms. Campa,

Please distribute a copy of the attached letter to each Supervisor and their Legislative Aide, and also please include this letter in the public record with respect to Item 27 (water ordinance) for the Board meeting tomorrow August 6, 2013.

Thank you. Please let me know if you are not able to open the attachment, which is in Word. Thanks.

Daniella Sapriel
Templeton, CA



13 LettertoBOS.doc

Dear Supervisors Arnold, Mecham, Hill and Gibson,

Aug. 5, 2013

Since I last wrote you on July 5, 2013, after my well went dry, two more immediate neighbors' wells have gone dry. All of us are across the road from the newly planted vineyards in the El Pomar area of Templeton, where thousands of previously dry-farmed acres are now irrigated vineyards, serviced by huge reservoirs filled by massive pumps with 10 to 12-inch casings and 100-hp pumps.

On July 12, 2013, after the Board meeting where she expressed an interest in helping troubled well owners, I wrote my Supervisor, Debbie Arnold, and asked specifically if she was willing to speak out and ask the biggest vineyard owners in our District, who are planting and planting and planting every available acre, if they were willing, as a gesture of good faith, to voluntarily stop any new plantings until August 27, 2013, the date the Board has set for action on an urgency measure.

I expressly asked Supervisor Arnold for a response to the specific question of whether she was willing to publicly ask the big landowners in our District to adopt a VOLUNTARY MORATORIUM on plantings to give the Board and the public some indication of good faith willingness to not add to the problem while the Board deliberates the issue and comes to some consensus.

To date, I have received absolutely NO RESPONSE from my Supervisor, Ms. Arnold. Nothing. SILENCE.

To me, that silence speaks volumes.

While our Board members for the North County wring their hands and mouth their concern, to date we have not heard a PUBLIC plea from North County Supervisors whose constituents include the biggest landowners, to please VOLUNTARILY STOP new plantings and new well drillings even for just a few weeks, so that the Board can address the issue without the added pressure of daily calls from desperate landowners whose wells are drying and who may not be able to drill a new well.

The Board has received letters from a family whose medical expenses for their disabled child do not allow them to finance a new well now that their old one has failed. They have been turned down for a loan by three banks and two credit unions. Another letter is from an 83-year old widow whose well failed a few days ago and who wonders what legacy will she leave her children if her property becomes worthless in an area of depleted water. How many more such letters do you need to receive?

What will it take to spur you to action? You have spoken to the well drillers, who may not speak publicly for fear of alienating their big vineyard clients from whom they make millions, but who know where the wells are failing, and admit that the big vineyards and huge reservoirs may have triggered the tipping point. They know, we know, YOU know: ***where the vineyards are planting, adjacent wells are failing.***

You have toured the areas, flown over the hidden reservoirs, spoken to rural residents, and seen the miles and miles and miles of new plantings. There are vineyards going in every available acre. Some vineyards have snuck water pipes without permits underneath rural roads to get to a few additional plants on leased land.

North County's hills and fields, which used to be covered in amber waves of dry-farmed grain, now resemble cemeteries criss-crossed by rows of new grapes.

What more do you need to see? What more do you need to hear? What are you waiting for?

Previously, Supervisor Arnold indicated the Board needed to hear from the Blue Ribbon Committee, which includes some of the biggest ag interests. Now PRAAG, in an editorial, has publicly voiced its support for a California Water District run and managed by the biggest landowners, with representation proportional to assessed land value. REALLY??? The biggest landowners, whose over-planting and over-pumping pushed our aquifer past the tipping point, are asking us to "trust" them to act in our best interests? As our wells go dry and our property values plummet, then their votes will be the only votes that count? And that's what they think is an equitable solution?

Meanwhile, despite wringing their hands and "acknowledging" that we are in an "emergency", not one of these big vineyard owners or management companies has been willing to step forward and say: *"I am going to stop planting right now, voluntarily, until we can get a handle on the problem. . . And I call on all the other vineyards to do the same."* Instead, we read in our daily paper that thousands of new acres are being planted, and new expansions to old wineries and vineyards are proceeding apace.

The big ag interests say: "Don't regulate -- we can handle this ourselves." But they have not voluntarily stopped planting or pumping, and they will not until every last acre is planted, and every last gallon pumped. They don't want regulation, but they fear it is coming, so they plant and pump faster and faster so that if regulation comes, they will have already sucked every last gallon they can to establish the highest possible "prior use" for any allocation plan. And meanwhile, the rest of us go dry. . . .

There is an old saying: "LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY." We are in crisis. You were elected to lead. So *lead, follow, or get out of the way.* Show leadership by adopting an emergency ordinance. Show leadership by publicly calling on your richest constituents to show their good faith by adopting a voluntary moratorium NOW, to give the Board time to pass a measured response. Or admit that, on your watch, you sat idly by and watched North County sucked dry by land and water barons with no allegiance to anything but money. You will have proved what we are fearing, which is that, in this County, at this moment, big money has the loudest voice.

Daniella Sapriel
(Templeton/El Pomar Area/ Almond Drive)

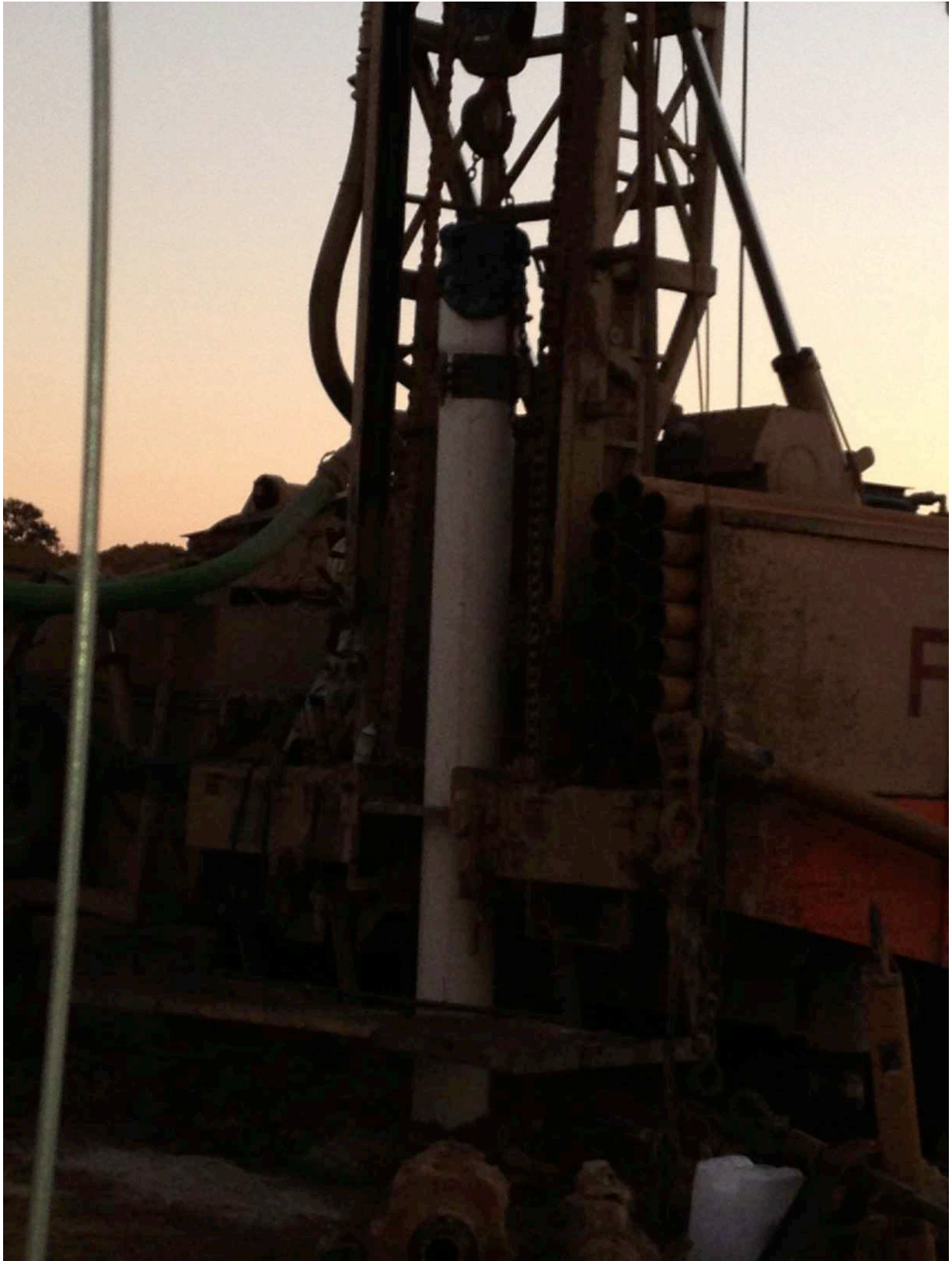
Photographs of El Pomar/South El Pomar/Creston Area



Agenda Item Number: 27
Meeting Date: August 6, 2013
Presented By: Daniella Sapriel
Rec'd prior to the meeting & posted on: August 5, 2013



Ordinary 5-in residential well casing. Well at 480 feet
Well uses 1-1/2 HP pump



Picture of one of 7-10 new wells with large casings drilled across El Pomar to serve the new vineyards. Note difference in casing size between these vineyard wells & ordinary residential well, shown above. These wells take 100-hp pumps to fill reservoirs.



To: Frank Mecham/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Bruce Gibson/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Adam Hill/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Debbie Arnold/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Cherie Aispuro/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Debbie Geaslen/BOS/COSLO@Wings, Hannah cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder/ClerkRec/COSLO@Wings,
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: District 1 - Contact Us (response #264)
From: Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO - Monday 08/05/2013 02:57 PM

Vicki M. Shelby
Legislative Assistant for
First District Supervisor Frank R. Mecham
1055 Monterey St., D430
San Luis Obispo CA 93408
(805) 781-4491/FAX (805) 781-1350

email: vshelby@co.slo.ca.us

"Thinking a smile all the time will keep your face youthful" - Frank G. Burgess
"Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been" - Mark Twain

----- Forwarded by Vicki Shelby/BOS/COSLO on 08/05/2013 02:55 PM -----

From: "Internet Webmaster" <webmaster@co.slo.ca.us>
To: "vshelby@co.slo.ca.us" <vshelby@co.slo.ca.us>
Date: 07/25/2013 02:03 PM
Subject: District 1 - Contact Us (response #264)

District 1 - Contact Us (response #264)

Survey Information

Site:	County of SLO
Page Title:	District 1 - Contact Us
URL:	http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/bos/District_1/District1ContactUs.htm
Submission Time/Date:	7/25/2013 2:03:01 PM

Survey Response

Name:	Dean Porter
Telephone Number:	
Email address:	starfarms@airspeedwireless.net
	Dear Frank Mecham, July 25, 2013 I am an alfalfa farmer in San Miguel. I own and farm my land along the Estrella River. I have grown irrigated alfalfa on my farm for 37 years. Previous owners grew it for 20 years before. This is my full time profession; I do not have an off-farm job. Alfalfa is a water intensive crop: it uses nearly 10 times as much water as grapes. An alfalfa stand lasts 3-4 years, depending on

Comments or
questions
(8,192
characters
max):

gopher, squirrel and weed pressure, and is therefore replanted every 3-4 years. Should the Supervisors take the path of adopting an emergency ordinance establishing a planting moratorium on new vineyards would this somehow preclude me from establishing new stands of alfalfa? If so, how do I make a living farming my land in San Luis Obispo County. I've grown Sugar Beets on my ground before; they use 30% less water than alfalfa. Could I grow them under this new ordinance? I've grown Carrots on my ground before; they use 50% less water than alfalfa. Could I grow them under this new ordinance? Both of these crops use 500 to 700% more water than grapes. The Federal CRP Program pays farmers to take certain farmland out of production. If prevented from cropping my land by County ordinance, is the County going to compensate me somehow for loss of income? Otherwise how is this different than the County exercising emanate domain without compensation. How about this: suppose I decide to do all I can to be part of the solution and not part of the problem in overdrafting the Paso Robles Basin; because I love this countryside and those that live in it. I'll quit growing alfalfa and plant a crop that uses 80% less water! Citizen of the Year? Recognition by the Board? Perhaps a plaque for my office? Probably not, because I would have to plant grapes. This is not tongue in cheek or me trying to be a smart aleck. If the Board chooses to go the way of planting moratoriums on grapes, then there must be an exemption for established irrigated growers to plant any crop that uses less water than they currently use; including grapes. In theory, a new vineyard moratorium could arrest the worsening of the overdraft, but it does nothing to reverse it. Allowing growers to plant crops that use less water will actually begin to reverse the problem. I implore the Board to take this into consideration when drafting new ordinances while attempting to find solutions to our water woes. Respectfully, Dean Porter

San Miguel, Ca. 93451

starfarms@airspeedwireless.net



Fw: Aug. 6, 2013 BoS hearing item #27
Cytasha Campa to: cr_board_clerk Clerk Recorder

08/05/2013 03:36 PM

Kindest regards,

Cytasha Campa

Board Secretary

Board of Supervisors

San Luis Obispo County

805-781-4335

----- Forwarded by Cytasha Campa/BOS/COSLO on 08/05/2013 03:36 PM -----

From: "R. Michael Heneveld" <henevelds2@yahoo.com>
To: darnold@co.slo.ca.us, fmecham@co.slo.ca.us, ahill@co.slo.ca.us, bgibson@co.slo.ca.us, ccampa@co.slo.ca.us
Date: 08/05/2013 03:36 PM
Subject: Aug. 6, 2013 BoS hearing item #27

Dear Supervisors,

We are writing to urge you to take the most stringent measures necessary to ensure adequate water supplies in North County.
We agree with the The Tribune. You don't spend what you don't have.
Home owners no longer have the right to divide properties that would necessitate new wells.
It's time for everyone to step forward, to make sacrifices to ensure the future of North County for all stakeholders.

No new wells.
No expanded irrigation crops.
No dry land conversion.
No new development that requires a well.
No new agricultural ponds.

Let's find a way to share water that is sound and sustainable....before it is inaccessible to anyone and everyone.

Act now.

Michael and Barbara Heneveld
Templeton